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REPLACEMENT OF IRAN'S PRIME MINISTER INDICATED

- 25X1A
- I. [REDACTED] growing certainty of replacement of Prime Minister Zahedi soon after Shah's return scheduled for late February.
- A. Political deterioration may force Shah to shorten his European visit.
- B. Zahedi's increasingly poor health supports Shah's reported opinion that prime minister is now incapable of carrying on effective administration. Zahedi has not attended his strife-ridden cabinet meetings since mid-December.
- C. Several candidates campaigning for premiership. Senator Eghbal, university chancellor, believed Shah's choice at present. Retired generals Arfa and Kia also candidates.
- 25X1C
- D. [REDACTED] Zahedi recently said, "I came in on a tank and if necessary I will go out on a tank." Nevertheless, prime minister has no control over sources of power and even one of his staunch supporters recently advised him to quit before he was forced out ignominiously.

33
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